

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02955 141750 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 MC-02 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20

IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 ACDA-19 IO-12

EB-11 GAC-01 EUR-25 EA-11 RSR-01 /185 W
----- 052536

P R 141636 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3161

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2955

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, PK, US

SUBJECT: ARMS TO PAKISTAN-- MEDIA AND PARLIAMENTARY REACTION.

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 14 PRESS FEATURED STORIES BASED ON GOI
BACKGROUNDERS EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S
STATEMENT RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN UNDER ACTIVE
CONSIDERATION. MEMBERS RAJYA SABHA FOLLOWED UP IN HOUR- LONG
DEBATE. IN REPLY, FOREIGN MINISTER CITED GOI "UTMOST CONCERN"
AND ANNOUNCED AMBASSADOR BEING CALLED IN. FONMIN REFUSED
WITHDRAW HIS NOVEMBER 30 STATEMENT ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
US, HOWEVER, AND HOPED USG WOULD RECONSIDER ON SUPPLYING ARMS
TO PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS: PRESS TRUST OF INDIA STORY, QUOTING "LOBBY CIRCLES,"
SAID OVER PAST FEW MONTHS USG HAD INDIRECTLY SOUNDED INDIA OUT
ON PROPOSAL TO RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN. INDIA POINTED
OUT TO USG THIS EQUIPMENT (NOW APPARENTLY REFERRING ONLY TO SPARE
PARTS) WOULD REACTIVATE PAK MILITARY MACHINE, STRENGTHEN MILITARY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02955 141750 Z

ELEMENTS INSIDE PAKISTAN, AND QUEER PITCH FOR NORMALIZATION RELATIONS IN SUBCONTINENT. REPORT NOTED " SPARES" WOULD INCLUDE PAK AIRCRAFT AWAITING REPAIRS IN US, WHEREAS INDIAN EQUIPMENT HELD UP ESSENTIALLY RADAR AND SOME OTHER SUCH GOODS, WHICH ONLY DEFENSIVE IN CHARACTER.

3. PRESS WIDELY CLAIMED SISCO STATEMENT DID NOT AUGUR WELL FOR MOYNIHAN CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MARCH 15. STATESMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID MOVE " COULD NOT HAVE COME AT MORE AWKWARD TIME FOR INDO- US RELATIONS." REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS PARASURAM (INDIAN EXPRESS) AND KAMATH (TIMES OF INDIA) TREATED SISCO COMMENTS IN RELATIVELY POSITIVE MANNER, BUT KAMATH STORY ALONE OF THOSE IN MARCH 14 PRESS NOTED 1970 COMMITMENT INCLUDED BOMBERS, FIGHTER INTERCEPTORS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

4. HINDUSTAN TIMES, TRIBUNE, MAIL, MOTHERLAND AND HINDUSTAN STANDARD CARRIED CRITICAL EDITORIALS. PRO- MOSCOW PATRIOT ALLEGED AMERICAN AMRS ALWAYS BEEN FLOWING INTO PAKISTAN. ON ALL INDIA RADIO " SPOTLIGHT" PROGRAM, DIRECTOR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS K. SUBRAHMANYAM URGED THAT IT BE MADE CLEAR THAT " CONTINUED INTERVENTIONISM IN SUBCONTINENT WOULD BE COSTLY POLICY TO USA."

5. PARLIAMENT: IN RESPONSE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE IN RAJYA SABHA, FOREIGN MINISTER QUOTED SISCO TO EFFECT USG WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAY TO FULFIL LONGSTANDING ARMS COMMITMENT TO PAKISTAN WHICH SUSPENDED SINCE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN 1971, WHICH FONMIN INTERPRETED AS US " INTENTION" TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN. FONMIN EXPRESSED GOI " UTMOST CONCERN ." HE SAID THIS WOULD JEOPARDIZE NORMALIZATION ON SUBCONTINENT AND WOULD " ONCE AGAIN POSE GRAVE THREAT TO INDIA' S SECURITY." HE NOTED THAT IN HIS NOV 30 STATEMENT HE SAID PAST US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN HAD BEEN A PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF STRAINED INDO- US RELATIONS. GOI HOPED USG WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS AND REFRAIN FROM ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN. (FULL TEXT FONMIN STATEMENT SEPTTEL.)

6. PRO- MOSCOW COMMUNIST LED QUESTIONING, CHARGING FONMIN' S STATEMENT UNSATISFACTORY AND IN SOME RESPECTS UNDIGNIFIED. REFERRING TO PREVIOUS US ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN, 1971 POLICIES, ARMS SUPPLIES THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH HE ALLEGED CONTINUING, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02955 141750 Z

AND SUSPICIOUS UPSURGE OF " RIGHT REACTION," HE URGED FONMIN

TO WITHDRAW NOV 30 STATEMENT ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US AND GIVE UP ATTEMPT. SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONERS, FROM BOTH OPPOSITION AND CONGRESS, REPEATED PROTESTS THESE CHARGES BUT WITH LESS VEHEMENCE AND IN MORE QUESTIONING MANNER.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER REFUSED TO WITHDRAW NOV 30 STATEMENT BUT CALLED ATTENTION TO CONCERN EXPRESSED THEREIN ABOUT POSSIBLE ARMS SUPPLIES AND SAID RESUMPTION OF SUPPLIES WOULD STAND IN WAY OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH US. HE ADMITTED GOI HAD INDICATIONS OVER PAS TWO TO THREE MONTHS THAT USG CONTEMPLATING PARTIALLY LIFTING EMBARGO. GOI HAD EXPRESSED TOTAL OPPOSITION TO SUCH MOVE BY USG, HE SAID. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN BEING CALLED IN SO THAT GOI COULD EXPRESS CONCERN FURTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER THOUGHT ALTHOUGH USG HAD ANNOUNCED " INTENTION" PERHAPS DECISION NOT COMPLETELY FINAL AND GOI MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT. AT ONE POINT HE NOTED INDIA SHOULD FACE SITUATION WITH COURAGE AND SHOULD NOT BE " UNNECESSARILY EXCITED." USG DECISION " ALL THE MORE SURPRISING AND DISAPPOINTING" WHEN IT HAD ITSELF WELCOMED SIMLA AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT QUESTION OF POWS SHOULD BE SETTLED AMONG COUNTRIES OF SUBCONTINENT, FONMIN SAID. HE DODGED DIRECT QUESTION WHETHER INDIA WOULD ALSO BENEFIT BY EASING OF EMBARGO, REITERATING INSTEAD OPPOSITION TO LIFTING BAN ON SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN

8. ALTHOUGH FONMIN IN PREVIOUS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT SAID NO RPT NO APPRECIABLE QUANTITY OF US ARMS REACHING PAKISTAN THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES, HE DID NOT REITERATE THIS IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS MARCH 14. INSTEAD, HE MERELY NOTED GOI EARLIER EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY ARMS MIGHT REACH PAKISTAN THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES. DECON UPON RECEIPT.
MOYNIHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE02955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730328/aaaahsbl.tel
Line Count: 150
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971201
Subject: ARMS TO PAKISTAN-- MEDIA AND PARLIAMENTARY REACTION.
TAGS: MASS, IN, PK, US
To: BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
Dacca
ISLAMABAD
MADRAS
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005